NOTE XXXVI.

ON AN UNDESCRIBED SPECIES OF THE COLEOPTEROUS GENUS HELOTA, MACLEAY.

BY

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To the liberality of Prof. Westwood I owe the opportunity of adding a new species of *Helota* to the number already described, and as the specimen communicated to me (a ♂) is labelled »*Helota Boysii* Westw.", I believe it desirable to maintain this name.

Helota Boysii

is a very narrow and elongate species, and closely allied to *H. pusilla* R. Oberth. [1]) and *culta* Olliff [2]) of which I have the types before me. It is, however, considerably larger, measuring 9 mm. in length, which gives it some resemblance to *H. laevigata* R. Oberth. [3]). The latter, however, is broader, has a shorter thorax and otherwise coloured antennae, sides of prosternum, elytral epipleurae [4]) and legs, and its tibiae are considerably more elongated. Moreover the tibiae of the anterior pair of legs in the males are quite differently shaped: in *laevigata* ♂ they are more elongated (as is already said), and distinctly curved about the middle; in *Boysii* ♂ on the contrary they are shorter and stouter, slightly curved at the apex on the outside, and provided at the apex on the inside with a flattened and truncate black appendage which is directed for-

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1) Coleopt. Novitates. I (1883) p. 60.

2) Cist. Ent. III (1883) p. 55; pl. 3, fig. 2.

3) Coleopt. Novitates. I (1883) p. 59.

4) In *laevigata* the sides of the prosternum and the elytral epipleurae are pale fulvous (the latter with a brassy hue), in *Boysii*, *pusilla* and *culta* they are brassy.

ward and inward. Finally the pubescence of the basal joints of the anterior tarsi is much longer and denser in *Boysii* ♂ than in the same sex of *laevigata*.

From *pusilla* (the male sex of which is unknown to me) the new species differs, besides by the sexual characters and by its larger size (9 mm.), by the pale colour of the club of the antennae, by the punctuation of the head which is considerably coarser and denser, by the shape and punctuation of the prothorax (in *Boysii* the prothorax is proportionately longer, more strongly narrowed in straight lines to the front and consequently of a regular trapezoidal shape, with broadly rounded anterior angles which are not at all produced; the punctures on the pronotum are larger, more widely and irregularly spread, leaving free a longitudinal streak in front of the scutellum; as for the punctuation of the pronotum it agrees therefore better with *laevigata* than with *pusilla*). Moreover, *H. Boysii* differs from *pusilla* in the position of the yellow elytral spots: in the former the anterior as well as the posterior spot is placed between the 3rd and 7th striae, whereas in the latter the anterior spot is placed between the 4th and 7th, the posterior one between the 3rd and 7th striae. Finally in *Boysii* the metallic green colour on the tibiae is restricted to the basal fourth, whereas in *pusilla* it occupies slightly more than the basal half.

From *culta* it may be distinguished by its superior size, straight (not constricted) sides of the prothorax, flattened appendage at the apex of the anterior tibiae, more narrowly rounded apices to the elytra which show a minute sutural tooth, proportionately smaller elytral spots, etc. In both species the 5th ventral segment has no impression, and the hinder-margin is truncate, more narrowly, however, in *culta* than in *Boysii*.

The examined male specimen comes from India (Boys) and belongs to the University Museum at Oxford.